No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/12 : LOC-HAK-543-2-5-1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 15 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

State Dept & DIA review(s) completed for entire document

MIDDLE EAST

MORI C03326465

Situation Report Number 38 (as of 0630 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. There was no significant ground force activity on either front during the night, but Israeli aircraft were active over Syria and southern Lebanon. On the Egyptian front, Israeli naval forces reportedly conducted a night raid on an Egyptian port in the southern Gulf of Suez, and Israeli and Egyptian aircraft returned to action over Egypt and the Sinai this morning.

EGYPTIAN FRONT

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3. Artillery fire was reported by Egyptian observers at several locations in the northern Suez Canal area during the night, but no further details are avail-

- 4. According to an Israeli radio report, Israeli naval vessels staged a raid during the night on the Egyptian port of Ras Gharib in the southern Gulf of Suez and burned Egyptian vessels and ammunition supplies. The Israeli report claimed that the base was a staging area for Egyptian commandos. The raid reflects Israeli sensitivity to threats of Egyptian landings in the southern Sinai peninsula.
- 5. According to recently available information, Egyptian naval units in the Mediterranean, assisted by four helicoptors, yesterday afternoon expended ordnance on what may have been a submarine. Neither the identity of the target nor results of the attack were reported.

SYRIAN FRONT

- 6. There was no reported ground force activity during the night. In the air the Israelis conducted extensive operations throughout the night, and have attacked Damascus this morning. Israeli aircraft have penetrated Lebanon as far north as Beirut and east to Boalbek. A report of Israeli and unidentified aircraft ranging over northern Lebanon and the Mediterranean sea suggests that an air battle may be in progress.
- 7. Radio Damascus reports that in addition to bombing Damascus, Israeli aircraft have attacked the ports of Tartus and Latakia. The Syrians also report that ground fighting has broken out in the northern sector of the front. Israel claims to have repulsed a small Syrian-Iraqi counterattack in the vicinity of Sasa.
- 8. Yesterday evening the Iraqi 3rd armored division made two unsuccessful attempts to dislodge the Israelis from positions in the hills nine miles from Qunaytirah.



EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVES

17. The Egyptian army attache in Islamabad told his US counterpart yesterday that Egypt's only objective in the current war is to regain territory lost in 1967. Egypt has no designs on Israeli territory, according to the attache. Within six months of a peace settlement, Egyptian labor and American engineers could reopen the Suez Canal. The canal would then be open to all world commerce regardless of political considerations. The attache said that Egypt was still interested in US participation in the SUMED pipeline project.

ISRAEL: THE COST OF WAR

18. Israel today announced its casualty figures for the first eight days of fighting, reporting 656 soldiers killed--compared to 777 killed during the 1967 Six-Day War--and 2,000 wounded. Among those killed in action was Major General Avram Mendler, deputy commander of the Sinai Armored Corps.

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KUWATT

24. The situation for American residents in Kuwait appears to be taking a turn for the worse. An American businessman living in Kuwait was told by high-level Kuwaiti friends that if the US limits its resupply efforts to Israel to ammunition, little negative reaction would be forthcoming. If the US should resupply aircraft or tanks, however, his friends advised that further informed that Kuwaiti retaliation could include nationalization of oil interests, cut-off of oil sup-Kuwait

SAUDI ARABIA

25. The US Embassy in Jidda believes Saudi Arabia soon may announce retaliatory action for US resupply

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